

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF METACOSMUS

1. Face, cheeks and chin mostly pale yellow; legs largely yellowish; anal cell narrowed apically though wide open; abdomen bare2
- Face, cheeks and chin mostly black; legs black, anal cell not tapering apically; abdomen pubescent. (Cal.)*nitidus* Cole
2. Legs yellowish brown; anterior crossvein at last third of discal cell; stem of halteres brown. (Cal., Ariz.)*exilis* Coquillett
- Legs partly black, the extreme base of hind femora, apical part of anterior tibiae and base of tarsi yellow; anterior crossvein at three-fifths the discal cell; stems of halteres white. (Penn.)*mancipennis* Coquillett

Curran has figured the wing and head of *mancipennis* in his Manual of the Genera of American Diptera. F. X. Williams has collected *exilis* in the Huachuca Mountains, Arizona (Citrus Experiment Station collection). Timberlake has *nitidus* from Santa Rosa Mountains, California, at 7500 ft. altitude, and I have taken the same species at the South Forks of the Santa Ana River, in the San Bernardino Mountains, at 6300 feet.

NOTES ON CERTAIN MEXICAN COCCINELLIDAE

(Coleoptera)

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During the summer of 1947 the writer spent three months collecting insects in various parts of Mexico, mainly in the states of Nayarit and Oaxaca. In the coleopterous family *Coccinellidae* about forty species were accumulated. Of these, five seem to be new records for Mexico and were not listed in the Blackwelder catalogue¹ of the Latin American beetles. The following species of *Scymnus* the writer regards as new.

¹Blackwelder, R. E. 1945. *Checklist of the coleopterous insects of Mexico, Central America, the West Indies, and South America*. Part 3. U. S. Nat. Mus., Bul. 185.

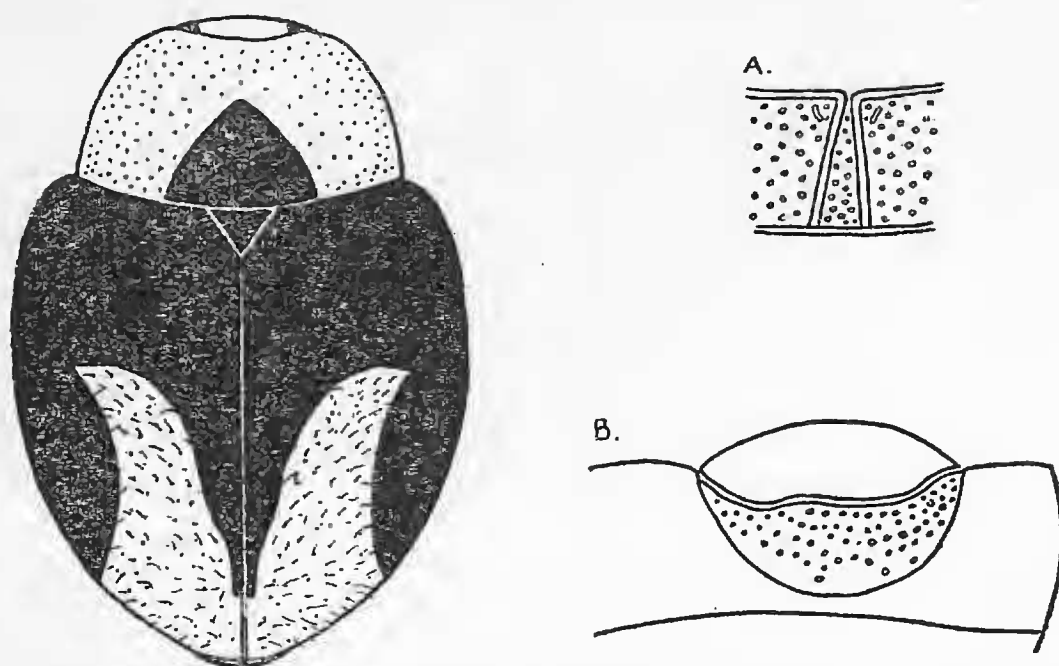


Fig. 1. *Scymnus mexicanus* Malkin, new species. A. Prosternal carinae. B. Abdominal plate.

Scymnus mexicanus Malkin, new species

Head: Dark, yellow-brownish, strongly punctured. Clypeus yellow. Palpi conical, yellow. *Pronotum*: very regularly curved, slightly more than twice as wide as long. Distinctly but not very strongly punctured and with dense golden pubescence. Color of thorax yellow with the usual black spot in the center reaching the base of the elytra. *Elytra*: very slightly longer than wide. Shining black except for the posterior portion where there is a brown-red spot on each elytron. These spots are prolonged into a spur and reach the middle of the disc, and coalesce only at the apex of elytra. Punctures on the elytra distinct and denser toward the sides. Yellow pubescence present throughout. Epipleura black except at the extreme apex where they are brown. *Prosternum*: yellow, darkened in the middle. Coarsely and closely punctured. Prosternal carinae converging in front, very distinct and uninterrupted. *Metasternum*: smooth, shining glabrous in the middle and sparsely pubescent toward the sides, with a feeble median impression. Punctures present on the sides, sparse. *Abdomen*: black, indistinctly punctured. Abdominal plates regularly curved not reaching the basal line of the first segment. *Legs*: dark yellow, femora darker in the middle. Length 2.1 mm., width 1.5 mm.

Type, of undetermined sex, in the American Museum of Natural History, New York. The specimen was collected by the writer at SALINA CRUZ, OAXACA, MEXICO, July 9-17, 1947, while sweeping miscellaneous vegetation. Salina Cruz is a port on the Pacific coast in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec region. It is an arid area approaching the conditions of the Sonoran Desert.

This species does not seem to be related very closely to any of the known Mexican forms of *Scymus* but comes quite close to *S. postpinctus* Csy., described from Wyoming². From this it differs in somewhat smaller size, rounder form, sparser punctulation of the dorsal surface, entirely dark sides of the elytra, a well defined prosternal carinae, and larger and better defined elytral spots.

The additions to Blackwelder's catalogue are as follows:

Hyperaspis rotunda Csy.—Tequixistlan, Oaxaca, July 18 (1 specimen). Described from Texas and Louisiana.

Brachyacantha bolli Cr.—Monte Alban, Oaxaca, Sept. 14 (1 specimen). Former distribution as above.

Brachyacantha bistrípustulata decora Csy.—Oaxaca, Oaxaca, July 20-24 (1 specimen). Described from Texas.

Brachyacantha bistrípustulata guttata Weise—Oaxaca, Oaxaca, July 20-24 (6 specimens). This variety was taken with a very large number of *B. bistrípustulata* (Fab.). The latter was also collected at Tepic, Nayarit, and Tolosa, Oaxaca (Atlantic slope of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, in tropical rain forest), while I have seen specimens taken by Mr. B. E. White at Brownsville and Uvalde, Texas. Mr. White has also taken the variety *guttata* at Omos Park, Texas (all of his records in July, 1941) which incidentally would represent a new record for *guttata* in the United States. Blackwelder lists this variety only from Colombia, S. A. As all these records cover a very wide and diverse topographical province the exact status of the variety *guttata* is uncertain.

Brachyacantha tau Lec.—Oaxaca, Oaxaca, July 20-24 (several specimens), September 13-20 (3 specimens). Previous records are from Nebraska and Montana.

²Casey, T. L. 1899. *A revision of the American Coccinellidae*. Jour. New York Ent. Soc. 7(2): 71-169.